

*Attalea cohune* (Phoenicaceae), 50527. Cohune. From Ceiba, Honduras. Seed presented by Mr. Charles N. Willard, American consul. "With the demand for combating the use of poison gas in the war, it was found that the shell of the cohune nut when carbonized, acted as a preventive against the injurious effects of the gas. It therefore became the principal element used in the manufacture of the gas mask. The utilization of the cohune nut for war purposes served to bring to light an industry which may be permanent, namely, the extraction of oil from the kernel of the nut. The cohune (or corozo) nut is a product of the manaca palm, is indigenous to tropical countries, and is found mostly on low, damp lands, along creeks and rivers. It thrives best in the deep forests, and the greatest supply is found in virgin forest lands, of which there are extensive areas in Honduras.

"The nuts grow in large oblong clusters weighing probably 75 pounds each. A single tree will have from 1 to 4 clusters on it at a time with an average production of 4 clusters a year to the tree. The nut varies in size from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 inches in length and from 1 to 2 inches in diameter. The shell is hard and dense, with an average thickness of  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch. For cracking the nuts, preparatory to extracting the oil, two varieties of machines are used. One is designated a 'knuckle' machine, in which the nuts drop from a hopper between heavy knuckles thus cracking the shell. The other is called an 'impact' machine. It operates by a centrifugal motion which propels the nut against the side of a large metal bowl with sufficient force to break the shell. The oil can then be extracted from this copra or crushed product.

"The oil is high grade, and is said to be superior to coconut oil; it finds a ready sale for cooking purposes, the preparation of foods, or any use to which a good cooking oil may be put. The Aguan River valley contains a single field of these nut-bearing trees extending 60 to 70 miles up the river from its mouth and with an average width of 10 to 12 miles." (Willard.)

*Cedrus atlantica* (Pinaceae), 50313. From Tangier, Morocco. Seed presented by Mr. Jules Goffart, Societe d'Horticulture. This vigorous tree is one of the finest of evergreens. It is pyramidal in form and has dense, light, silvery foliage. In its native territory, the Atlas Mountains of Algeria, it reaches a height of 120 feet. It thrives splendidly on the Pacific coast of the United States and can be grown in a sheltered position on the Atlantic coast as far north as New York.